

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9124

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GH GV UR CH

SUBJECT : GHANAIAN REQUEST FOR INFO ON USSR AND PRC ROLE
IN GUINEA

REF: A. MONROVIA 5040; B. ACCRA 5754

1. BELIEVE ALLOTEY (REFTELS) WOULD BE INTERESTED IN INFO
FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONCERNING USSR AND PRC ROLES IN GUINEA.
WE ARE MOST THANKFUL TO EMBASSY MONROVIA FOR THEIR ASTUTE REPLY
TO ALLOTEY QUESTION ON A.S. TOURE'S FUTURE (PARA 2, REFTTEL A),
AND AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT ALLOTEY, BELIEVE WE SHOULD
TELL HIM NOTHING THAT MIGHT HARM U.S. RELATIONS WITH GUINEA IF
IT GOT BACK TO A.S. TOURE.

2. SOVIETS ARE FAR MORE NUMEROUS IN GUINEA (C. 2,000 PERSONS)
THAN THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS (C. 500 PERSONS ON AVERAGE) AND
MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED. ON MILITARY SIDE SOVIET SHIPS (USUALLY
ONE DESTROYER AND ONE OR TWO AUXILIARY SHIPS) MAINTAIN CON-
STANT PATROL IN GUINEAN WATERS TO PROTECT AGAINST INVASION.
SOVIET MILITARY MISSION ARRANGES TRAINING IN USSR FOR GUINEAN
ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND PROVIDES ADVICE AND
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EQUIPMENT TO ALL THREE SERVICES AND TO COMBINED HEADQUARTERS.

GUINEAN AIR FORCE IS EQUIPPED WITH SOVIET FIGHTERS, TRANSPORTS, GROUND FORCES HAVE SOVIET WEAPONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND NAVY HAS SEVERAL PATROL BOATS FROM USSR. THROUGH CUBANS, SOVIETS ALSO EXERCISE ROLE ON TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MILITIA AND OTHER PARAMILITARY UNITS. CUBANS ARE ALSO INVOLVED WITH SOVIETS IN TRAINING AIR FORCE. GHANAIS SHOULD BE AWARE FROM THEIR OWN SOURCES OF THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF SOVIETS AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS IN PAIGC.

3. ON ECONOMIC SIDE SOVIETS MAIN PROJECT AT PRESENT IS BAUXITE MINING OPERATION AT KINDIA, WHICH WILL INCLUDE 115 KM RAIL-ROAD TO CONAKRY AND CONSTRUCTION OF LOADING AND SHIPPING FACILITIES IN CONAKRY HARBOR. THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS NOW EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY IN 1974 IS BEING FINANCED BY CREDIT SOVIETS SAY IS WORTH C. \$93 MILLION U.S. EQUIVALENT (RATE OF EXCHANGE USED TO DETERMINE THIS FIGURE NOT KNOWN). FROM THE SOVIET VIEWPOINT ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO RECOVER PAYMENT FOR PREVIOUS CREDITS. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GUINEAN INDEBTEDNESS TO SOVIETS FOR THIS AND OTHER CREDITS IS C. \$200 MILLION U.S. EQUIVALENT. SOVIETS PROVIDE TEACHERS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TWO POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTES, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN USSR, AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. CHINESE HAVE GIVEN FOUR SHANGHAI-CLASS PATROL BOATS TO GUINEAN NAVY AND TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR THESE SHIPS. FOR THE ARMY THEY HAVE PROVIDED TANKS AND OTHER WEAPONS. CHINESE HAVE ALSO GIVEN CREDITS TO BUY MUCH NEEDED RICE AND OTHER CONSUMER ITEMS. THEY HAVE BUILT SEVERAL FACTORIES (CIGARETTES, MATCHES, TEA) AND ARE REPORTEDLY GOING TO EXPAND A RICE-GROWING PROJECT THEY ORIGINATED SOME TIME AGO.

5. BOTH SOVIETS AND CHINESE ARE PUSHING GUINEANS TO REPAY OLD CREDITS MOSTLY WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE SOLD IN OPEN MARKET FOR FX WHICH GUINEA COULD OTHERWISE USE TO BUY GOODS OF HER OWN CHOOSING. SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS PARTICULARLY HAVE BEEN CRITICISED BY PRES TOURE FOR DEMANDING REPAYMENT AND "ACTING JUST LIKE CAPITALISTS". ALTHOUGH SOVIETS AND CHINESE DO NOT COOPERATE HERE, THERE IS NO OVERT EVIDENCE OF THEIR QUARREL. THIS IS MOST PROBABLY DUE TO GUINEAN DESIRE TO AVOID TAKING SIDES.

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6. FYI: CONCERNING A.S. TOURE'S FUTURE, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS LOST HIS CONTROL TO MANIPULATE THE INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT APPARATUS THAT HAS KEPT HIM IN POWER SINCE SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. PEOPLE MAY BE UNHAPPY WITH THEIR STAGNANT ECONOMY, WITH CONTINUED CHARGES OF PLOTS, AND OBVIOUS RESTRICTIONS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO COWED BY TOURE'S OMNIPRESENT INFORMERS AND HIS DEMONSTRATED RUTHLESSNESS IN PUNISHING

THOSE HE SUSPECTS OF WORKING AGAINST HIM AND HIS REGIME. HOW LONG HE WILL STAY IN POWER IS ANYBODY'S GUESS. ONE GENERAL AND USELESS ANSWER IS "AT LEAST AS LONG AS HE CAN CONTINUE TO THWART HIS ENEMIES BEFORE THEY CAN MOVE AGAINST HIM". ONE CAN GUESS AT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN GUINEA WHO MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO WANT TO OVERTHROW HIM, BUT WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY RELIABLE EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE PLANNING TO DO SO. END FYI.

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